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The Political Arena

Although the weather for the past few days has been essentially warm, it has not been hot enough to wilt the ambitions of Richard P. Morris, who desires to be the Democratic nominee for mayor. Although the executive is out of town, on a vacation, and another man performs his duties, the mayor has enough supporters to keep the pot boiling and even now the gentle bubbling may be heard, if one will but cock his ear and listen.

Ben D. Luce, Land and Water Commissioner, is presumably at the helm. Ben announces that the mayor is "the man." Asked if he thought the Democrats could muster enough delegates to hold a convention this fall, Ben responded "Sure." Then he pointed to the work done by the dozen patriots a year ago in nominating Morris, of which he is one and Haslam the other, who received recognition for the service. Of the other ten, one, Morris Sommer, is dead, while the balance are sulking in their tents. It is hardly probable that they will get out and tear their underwear in an effort to re-nominate Morris. But Ben thinks that "they will come a-runnin'." Because there is a million dollars to spend on the water system and times are going to be good, when that money starts to circulate, and there is going to be all sorts of dolings.

Well, it is not altogether improbable that Morris will get the nomination all right. There are not enough left in the party to successfully oppose it and what there are remaining are not so darned tumultuous as to crack any window panes with their sheering. Morris can get the nomination all right, but then there is an election to be held and that is what counts. Luce, however, is as sanguine and full of hope as a dog is of fleas. He is prepared to just get out and more than whoop things up for his candidate. Up to date he has expressed himself as having no second choice and it is not believed he, or any other Democrat for that matter, has a second choice, because there doesn't seem to be any other Democrat willing to take a choice.

A very nice scheme is being formulated by Democratic supporters of

Richard P. Morris, having for an object his re-election as mayor at the coming city election. It is proposed to divide the Republican vote by urging the nomination of a Gentile Republican as a candidate on the "American" ticket; the idea being to divide the Republican vote and thus secure the election of Morris.

This little plan, it is said, was broached at a private caucus of the mayor's friends just before he went away, and of which he was cognizant. The mayor realizes that his chances this fall are mighty slim; that the prospects are that the fight will be between the "American" party and the Republican party. If matters can be arranged so that Republican votes can be divided, then Mr. Morris will stand about an even show and may scratch through. On the other hand, if a Democrat should be selected as the standard bearer for the "Americans" it would divide the Democratic vote and would shut Morris out. Colonel Wall has been frequently spoken of as the candidate for mayor on the "American" ticket. Should the colonel accept and be nominated, it would mean quite a slump to the "Americans" by Democrats who do not like Morris and would certainly mean his defeat.

It is a nice little scheme, and if it could be worked might help Mr. Morris amazingly. That it is being tried there is no doubt, for just let the name of Colonel Wall be suggested as a candidate in the presence of any of the Morris crowd and his supporters will immediately indulge in predictions to the effect that he could not be elected if nominated.

The Democrats are in desperate straits this fall and will do anything to get the Republican party divided. That is why so many of them are suggesting that Ezra Thompson is the logical candidate for the "American" party and that almost any Republican will do for the regular nomination. No Democrat, whose name has been mentioned, is hailed with any favor, the Morris crowd immediately contending that the candidate ought to be a Republican.

Some time ago a report was circulated to the effect that our esteemed

friend John S. Critchlow, would be a dark horse candidate in the mayoralty race, but this rumor is unfounded. John S. will be a candidate for the place he now holds. It is the softest snap he ever had in his life, and he doesn't want to let go. Besides John has a lot of people dependent upon him who can not afford to have him let go. Hence there will be a real nice time getting him the nomination. And oh, what a daisy of a race he will have if he succeeds in getting the majority of the convention to vote for him. Because he will not be racing against a weak man this time; it will be a fellow who will show him a clean pair of heels. Critchlow will receive the undivided support of the Herald, which wants him there for the patronage there is in him, and it is fair to presume that Todkin's Weakly will also fall into line for him, because, while that paper advocated the election of Knox and Simond, John feels in duty bound to conciliate his political enemies to a certain extent, and has done so.

Brother Fernstrom will be a candidate to succeed himself in the council again. F. H. has come to believe that he and the Third precinct are like the American Union, one and indivisible.

M. J. Cunningham is mentioned strongly as a Democratic candidate for the council in the Second precinct. Colonel Ben D. Luce and others declare they will nominate him whether he wants it or not. Cunningham is a very popular man, and would make an ideal councilman, but it is dollars to dimes that no man of that political faith will be elected from that section of the town this fall. It would be too bad to offer Cunningham as a sacrifice and he will doubtless decline to accept, despite the hilarious declarations of Colonel Luce, et al.

Chief of Police Lynch is mentioned very frequently as the man for mayor on the Republican ticket, but Will informs Truth he does not want the place; that it is a bit too rich for his blood and that he is doing quite well where he is, thank you. But there are a lot of the boys who want him to run and thus take some of the wind out of the sails of the "American" party, which is sure to nominate a Gentile. In this connection it may be

well to state that the quiet boom in favor of H. G. McMillan is growing. It is understood that Charles Mostyn Owen and Rev. Dr. Paden are assisting in the canvass being made for McMillan and that the button hole act is frequent.

"American" party members are doing quite a bit of work during the hot days down in the Second precinct. Said work up to date has consisted in a strenuous search for two patriots who will consent to run for the council to fill the vacant shoes of L. J. Wood and George Dean, whose terms will expire at the end of the year. So far as heard from there were no candidates willing to lead the forlorn hope.

By the way; although T. Kearns has returned and gone it is said that the debts acquired by the "American" party management in the "education of the masses" during the last campaign are still due and unpaid and that no loosening up of coin has been detected by any of the creditors of the layout. Something will have to be done soon, or the "tireless workers" who did so nobly last autumn will refrain from climbing into the harness this year.

Chairman Snyder, of the "American" party, has been absent from the city for some time, but is "again in our midst." His return has no political significance, as he isn't saying a word.

About this time of the year a whole lot of minor employees at the city hall are beginning to cast anchors to windward by endeavoring to ascertain, if possible, just how the election is going this fall. This is to enable them to pull off their hats and cheer with the largest crowd. The eminent Mr. Pickwick, when he gave that advice, never dreamed that it would be of such lasting benefit to humanity—office holding humanity, as it has been. Truth refrains from printing names, because such conduct would be unkind, but the heroic efforts of a certain few at the building in acquiring information are certainly worthy of any man's admiration.

And now the Democratic opponents of Recorder Critchlow are unkind enough to say that two years ago John voted for Knox, while he was on

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